WAFWA Climate Change Committee Action items from Director's Forum (January 7, 2011)

On January 7, 2011 WAFWA directors and their state climate change forum participants came together during the WAFWA Climate Change Forum to talk about some of their issues, needs, and concerns about climate change adaptation and current national adaptation activities. A prioritized list of needs was created at the end of that session. These needs included:

- -Clarity about federal climate change policy
- -Coordination of federal climate initiatives
- -Integration of climate change into agency programs
- -Messaging
- -Funding

In the afternoon the state climate change forum participants created action items for the WAFWA Climate Change Committee. The following is a list of action items for the WAFWA Climate Change Committee to discuss at the committee meeting in July 2011.

Proposed: WAFWA Climate Change Committee Action Items to be completed by January 2012

- -WAFWA will draft a **position statement of support for increased funding** to state agencies for climate change. The WAFWA Climate Change Committee can assist in drafting this position statement.
- -WAFWA will **request a statement from USFWS** on how they anticipate implementation of ESA and other regulatory programs to occur under climate change (Will climate change cause them to change how they enforce ESA? What are their expectations for the states?). The WAFWA Climate Change Committee will draft this letter for Director review.

Proposed: For consideration and discussion by WAFWA Directors at January 2012 meeting

-Choose a team of staff from WAFWA states to look at existing WAFWA initiatives to examine how these initiatives integrate with climate change adaptation. The WAFWA Climate Change Committee can coordinate this effort.

2012 Action Items for Committee Consideration

- -The WAFWA Climate Change Committee will develop a positive "messaging" document to support state agency existing efforts for climate change adaptation. Messaging will emphasize how the toolbox states already use for conservation includes climate change adaptation activities and how state actions are addressing climate change. Also the document will discuss how climate change adaptation activities fit in with traditional longstanding agency programs, priorities, constituencies. *Opportunity to collaborate with AFWA Climate Change Committee*
- -The WAFWA Climate Change Committee will host a **workshop** on how implementation of ESA will play out in the context of climate change during a future WAFWA meeting (Hawaii 2012?).

- The WAFWA Climate Change Committee will work with WAFWA states to **develop a "checklist**" to evaluate federal/NGO planning/research initiatives. This will identify key Western state interests (authority, staffing expectations, funding, data requests, etc.) to provide a screening tool for evaluating whether or how much states should participate. The checklist will identify a consistent set of Western concerns and will encourage consistent responses to/from feds and coordination among states. It will also provide guidance for feds on likely state concerns with their initiatives.
- -The WAFWA Climate Change committee will work with the **Western Governors Association** on their "roadmap/inventory" on federal climate change initiatives to ensure that state wildlife agencies can benefit from the tool.
- -The WAFWA Climate Change Committee will look into the possibility of a **regional climate change policy coordinator** for Western states on federal climate change initiatives. This will be a time-limited position with a clearly defined scope of work and funding from feds/NGOs (i.e. Western states will not pay for it).